

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. A steering column apparatus comprising:

a steering column provided with a vehicle body-side bracket mounted to a vehicle body strength member to have a pair of side plate portions opposed each other to be extended in a vertical direction, and a generally cylindrical distance unit for supporting a steering shaft to be rotatable therein and having a pair of pressed and expanding portions formed to be expanded by plastic working to be pressed and supported by said side plate portions of said body-side bracket; and

an adjusting mechanism capable of adjusting a position of said steering column with respect to said side plate portions of said body-side bracket within a predetermined range,

wherein said steering column is formed with a reinforcement portion for enhancing the clamping rigidity of said distance unit with respect to said side plate portions.

2. A steering column apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcement portion is formed by coupling said pressed and expanding portions together in at least one of an upper part and a lower part of said pressed and expanding portions.

3. (currently amended) A steering column apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said ~~convex~~reinforcement portion is comprised of a plurality of convex streaks ~~and said concave portion is comprised of~~for a plurality of concave streaks.

4. (currently amended) A steering column apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said steering column is adjustable at least in one of a tilting direction or a telescopic direction with respect to said body-side bracket.

5. (currently amended) A steering column apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said plastic working is performed by hydroforming.

6. (new) A steering column apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said reinforcement portion is comprised

of a plurality of convex streaks or a plurality of concave streaks.

7. (new) A steering column apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said steering column is adjustable at least in one of a tilting direction or a telescopic direction with respect to said body-side bracket.

8. (new) A steering column apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said plastic working is performed by hydroforming.